



The Peppertree POST

2018 Volume 1

What do we do? Rescue dogs of good temperament who need new homes • Cooperate with and assist other rescues, shelters, and animal control • Educate the public about how to obtain a companion animal.

A 'Powerful' Pairing

by Bonnie Ginter

Maxx Power came to Peppertree as an energetic, unsocialized 9 month old puppy. He was good with most dogs and hesitant with new people, but warmed up quickly once he realized the person was going to love or feed him. Maxx was a little rough around the edges but had the potential to be a great dog. Maxx greeted people by jumping on them, and was mouthy during play. He was going to need some work, but we knew he'd be worth it, so we started at the beginning.

While in foster care, Maxx started obedience and socialization training with Becky Hutchins at Good Choice Dog Training in Albany, where he learned how to sit, settle, and walk by his person's side. He learned quickly and was quite willing to work for treats. It was soon discovered that what Maxx needed most was a job, a focus for his energy, and plenty of exercise. Peppertree tries to place dogs in homes that can meet the needs of the dog, as well as the adopter. Many times we say the dogs choose their home. You can see right away when the dog makes a connection with a person. That's how it happened for Britta and Maxx.



Britta and Bryant came to a Peppertree adoption clinic looking for a potential service dog. Britta has brain cancer and PTSD, and has given Peppertree permission to share her story. The cancer has caused seizures. Britta needs a service and companion dog to help keep her safe if she has a seizure in public. Maxx, being the charmer that he is, jumped on Britta and showed her what a loving companion he could be. Britta had another dog, so Maxx was going to have a brother to play with, too. Maxx and Chewy have become good friends and snuggle buddies. Britta had experience training dogs, and was committed to helping Maxx live up to his potential. Britta and Bryant continued his basic obedience training with Becky, and Britta has spent countless hours bonding and training with Maxx.



Maxx is 2 years old now. He is still a little wary of new people, which actually works in his favor for part of his training. Right now Maxx works as a companion and buffer between Britta and people that may not understand personal space boundaries related to PTSD. People with PTSD can be frightened by others walking up to them and getting close. Maxx keeps people from walking up close without warning. He helps Britta feel safe in public.

Maxx is in service dog training at Operation At Ease, an organization which trains service dogs for veterans with PTSD. The training is tiered, meaning that Maxx will have to pass three tests: Canine Good Citizen, then Canine Urban, then Service Dog. Maxx will have to learn to walk at Britta's side and sit patiently while she talks to someone. He will be able to walk politely through a crowd of people and other dogs. At the conclusion of his service dog training, Maxx will stay with Britta if she has a seizure, and put his head under her to alert someone that she needs help. Maxx and Britta have come a long way together. I am so proud of him!



Fluff's Training Corner

What to do with a bored dog?

By Alissa Mosier, CPDT-KA

You have probably all heard the phrase “a tired dog is a good dog”, and that is true. A tired dog generally has their exercise needs met and will not feel as great a need to chew or dig or do things that may get them into trouble. But what happens when you have an older dog whose mind is active, but whose body is not as able? Or maybe it is snowing? Or raining? Or you have the flu? Life happens, and walking three miles is not always possible. In addition, the more you condition a dog to be an ultimate athlete, the more endurance they will build. This is great health-wise, but some dogs need to learn that playing, running, wrestling or playing fetch are not the only ways to exercise, you can also exercise their mind! Enter the puzzle toy.

Puzzle toys are everywhere, and everyone has a different favorite, from the Kong Wobbler to the Buster Cube. A toy your dog really loves works for them! And even if it is not really a “puzzle”, we firmly believe in a frozen Kong in every home! A real favorite of Shadow the Elkhound was the Muffin Tin Game. The Muffin Tin Game is simple.



You get a muffin tin, 12 tennis balls, and some treats. You start by just dropping a treat in the tin and letting your pup gobble it up. Simple right? Well, it gets harder. Next you put 11 tennis balls in the slots, leaving one empty. Drop a treat in there and let your dog eat it a few times. Then you put the treat in there and let your dog watch as you cover it up with that 12th tennis ball. Make sure they see you cover it up, point it out to them, wave it around in front of their nose a bit, and then plop that tin down and let them figure out how to get it out. If they're struggling you can nudge it up a little with a finger (as long as your dogs are okay with people in close proximity to their food) and make it easier for them to get the treat. Eventually they will not need your help, and you can fill the tin without them looking and put it down and let them do all the work. This is a great game to play at night as things are winding down. You can watch TV while your dog watches the muffin tin!

Tabby, on the other hand, is not a muffin tin kind of girl. Tabby doesn't like having to move things, or the sounds of the game, so, for her we have the Snuffle Mat. Available through Etsy (or through Upstate Underdog Rescue who makes and sells them as a fundraiser for their group) these are mats with fleece tied in a way that there are little fabric fingers, perfect for hiding kibble or treats in. You put the mat down and hide some kibble or treats in it, and your dog gets to snuffle around and eat it as they find it. It is such a simple toy that brings so much joy to Tabby. Even regular kibble becomes a huge treat when it is put in the snuffle mat. Tabby gets snuffle mat time every night, and when it is almost time she will show up and start whining and dancing in excitement. It has been a great way to keep her brain busy when the weather made it hard to get her outside. This is also a great way to make crate time fun. Just put it in the crate with the door open and let your dog hop in, snuffle around, and hop out when they are ready. Crates that have toys and treats are a lot more fun. Just remember not to leave your pup unsupervised with a snuffle mat, as they can chew the fabric, and no one wants a bowel obstruction!



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

(A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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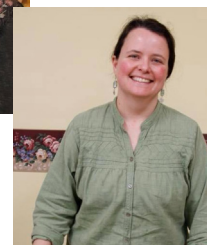
Mangia! 2017 Spaghetti Dinner

Peppertree's 11th annual spaghetti dinner was our best ever, thanks to our energetic and experienced volunteers and to the amazing generosity of many sponsors. As diners walked through the doors of the Cohoes Senior Center that November evening, the delectable aroma of sauce, meatballs and sausage filled the air, and an array of home-baked goods tempted the senses. There were many great raffles and silent auction items and we thank all who donated those. It is always so wonderful to see the familiar faces of friends and adopters enjoying our efforts.

We owe much of the success of this event to the support of the community. Perreca's Bakery donated bread and sauce, Price Chopper in Watervliet gave us an oh-so-reasonable price for the meat and some other supplies, and many of their staff came out to support us. DeCresente Distributing donated bottled water and gave us a discount on soda, and Villa Italia provided some delicious pastries. Many sponsors and donors gave in advance of the event to make sure expenses were covered, including small businesses like Trinity Construction, PMA Mechanics, the Hoffman Family, Old Dogs New Tricks Dog Training, and Good Choice Dog Training. Many wonderful businesses and individuals donated raffle and auction items: the Paw House Inn in Vermont, Linda Conley Photography, All Star Wine and Spirits, Brunswick Veterinary, Ms. Dixie's Tattoo in Troy, Mexican Radio, Northway Golf, Halfmoon Diner, Skyline Diner, Scallywags, The Color Bar Hair Studio, Spare Time, Kulak's Nursery and Landscaping, Ellms Family Farm, Uncle Sam's Chocolates, and CrossRoads for Dogs all contributed. The Palace Theatre donated 2 tickets to Jennifer Nettles and a 100.00 gift certificate for dinner before the show.

We also want to thank the rescue community for joining us. We had volunteers from Out of the Pits, Rottie Empire Rescue, Upstate Underdog, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, and Saratoga County Animal Shelter attend and CAPP donated a raffle basket.

We beat our 2016 total by \$1,000, and served 241 happy diners. The generous donations we received meant we had few expenses, and we raised almost \$6,000 for our dogs! This annual event is a lot of work, and worth every bit of it - we look forward to seeing you again in the fall!

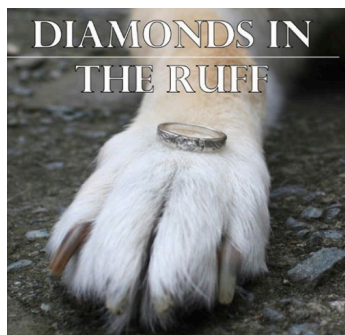


2018

Diamonds in the Ruff

By Karen Alti

What a fun time we had during our “Diamonds in the Ruff” fundraiser on February 2. Glennpeter Jewelers generously provided their beautiful Diamond Centre for the event, arranged for hot and cold appetizers, and donated two amazing items to be auctioned off. We can’t thank them enough. There is a bar inside the facility, which amazes me (I really need to get out more!) and the proceeds from the beverages sold were also donated to Peppertree. I can’t say enough about how wonderful Glennpeter is!



This year’s event included several firsts. We were asked to use Eventbrite so that attendees could sign up in advance, in order to be sure there would be plenty of food available. We had about 50 pre-registered guests - thank you! Music was provided by “Ceiliuradh” (kell-oor-ah) a Celtic music duo that entertained us with traditional Irish and Scottish music. They were wonderful and brightened the evening from the very first jig. Another first this year was a restaurant gift card pull that turned out to be very popular. For a \$20 donation guests could select a bag, and enclosed inside was a gift card for a Capital District restaurant with a guaranteed minimum value of \$20. There were many generous restaurants and the value of some reached up to \$100!



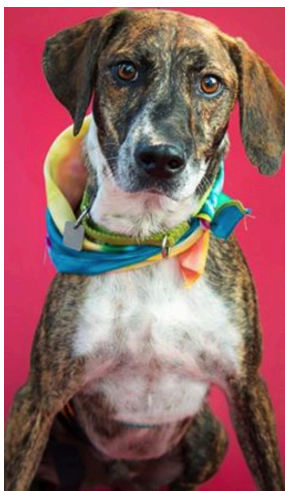
After checking in at registration and purchasing some raffle tickets came the hard part - deciding where to drop them. The Mystery Escape Room? Chocolates from Uncle Sam’s? Flowers in a fish vase? There were so many choices. Then if you wanted to continue trying your luck there were auctions to bid on - a wine tasting party? A private pottery lesson? Tickets to a show?



Hopefully there was something for everyone. Walking around the room, I saw many familiar faces, and I was happy to see so many new ones. We’re so thankful for all of the wonderful supporters that came out during such a chilly night! We were able to raise over \$1,500 thanks to you!



Robbi



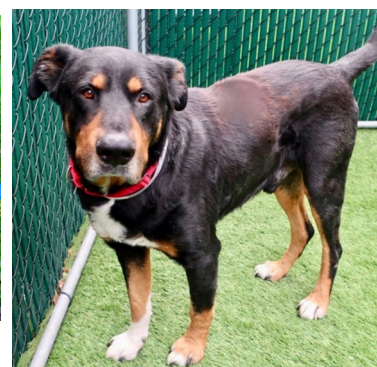
Poppy



Dollar



Hodor

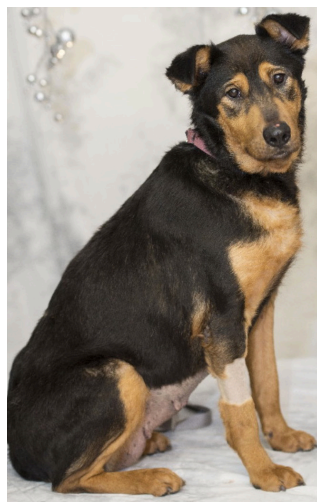


Foster Spotlight

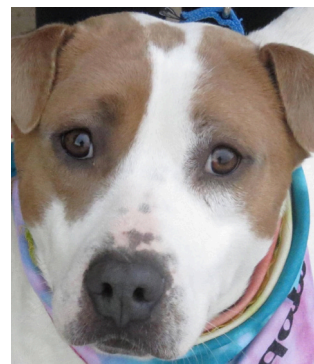
Marigold



Kyllie



Ernie



Lizzie



Wendy and Paul Krebs

Bella Mia



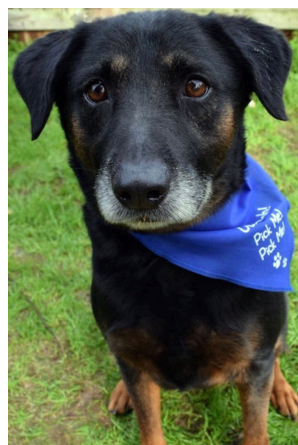
Kocham



Bridey Murphy



Dickens



Rover



Jaden



MISS MOLLY

by Rich Rini

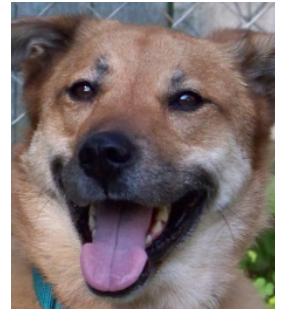
Miss Molly's original family loved her dearly, but they were getting on in age and had to move into an apartment which did not allow pets. Not to worry, they had a new home all lined up for Molly. But that arrangement fell through at the very last minute. Not knowing what to do, they hid the dog in the apartment and frantically called Peppertree for help.



Our evaluators immediately swung into action. They met the family and the dog, and quickly came to the conclusion that Molly was a dog that we could help. The family was quite relieved, and you could say Molly was rescued from the apartment! She was placed with long-time Peppertree foster mom Pat T. and made the usual trip to the vet for a check-up and any needed vaccinations. Except for an ear infection she was in good health.

Soon afterward, Miss Molly was adopted, and that should be the end of the story, except a few days later, during the 2 week trial period, Molly injured herself. It was a torn ACL, and Miss Molly was returned to Peppertree. Molly would need some pretty major surgery. Thanks to our grant from the Doris Day Animal Foundation we were able to pay for all the care that Molly needed.

Molly went back to Pat's home and Pat cared for her during the wait for her operation. And it was during this time that Molly got to meet her patron saint, Sharon B.



Sharon's first rescue dog, Kahlua, had passed away at the age of 15, and she felt it was time to welcome another dog into her home. She regularly checked the Peppertree website and noticed that Miss Molly had a strong resemblance to Kahlua. She just had to meet her. It was love at first sight and Sharon agreed to adopt Molly as soon as her operation was complete and even care for her during her recuperation. Molly had her operation and left the animal hospital with Sharon.

Sharon says, "I found it very rewarding to help Molly through her pain. I think it was what I needed to heal from the loss of Kahlua. I love Molly and I believe that the recuperation time together helped us bond very quickly. She is a wonderful dog and I am so happy that I found her. I am so grateful to Peppertree for letting me adopt her. Molly is so funny and playful. She loves her daily walks at the park and loves to run around the yard, throwing her toys around. My granddaughter loves her! She and I are very happy together."



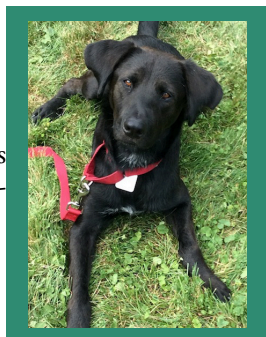
Bone Appetit!

Healthy Pumpkin Balls

This snack is not only delicious, but is also filled with fiber, Vitamin A, beta-carotene, potassium, and iron.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 4 tbsp molasses
- 4 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon (optional)



Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix pumpkin, molasses, vegetable oil, and water together in a bowl.

Add the whole wheat flour, baking soda, baking powder and cinnamon to the mixture and stir until dough softens.

Scoop out small spoonfuls of dough and roll into balls on your hands (wet hands work best).

Set the balls onto a lightly greased cookie sheet and flatten with a fork.

Bake approximately 25 minutes until dough is hardened.

Store in an air-tight container and place in the freezer. Allow the treat to thaw 10 to 20 minutes before feeding to your dog. Treats will last up to 4 months in freezer.



Animal Rescue Story: Ernest Finds a Forever Home

by Peggy Frezon as submitted to Chewy.com

Our first senior dog rescue was 11 years old when we adopted him. I shook my head and told my husband, “He’ll break our hearts.”

My husband looked at me and said, “But he needs us.”

So we adopted the sad, skin-and-bones Golden Retriever, named him Brooks, and fell in love with him. And sure enough, he broke our hearts -- but not before filling them with love and joy.

Brooks helped us find our mission—to give a loving home to abandoned senior Golden Retrievers. We’ve loved



and lost a few. Then this May, Peppertree Rescue contacted us about a 9-year-old Golden who lived in deplorable conditions. Did we want him? We’d just lost two senior dogs. Could we open our hearts up to such pain again?

The answer was clear.

We sent Brooks’ story to Chewy.com, and in addition to publishing it, Chewy.com sent Ernest a box of goodies, and they also sent Peppertree Rescue, the amazing rescue group from which we adopted Ernest, Brooks, and our other dogs, a



big box of two dog beds, toys, Kongs, and treats to share with foster dogs in their care.

Last spring Ernest was diagnosed with cancer. He had surgery. He passed his TDI test and now helps people with cancer and others. He’s doing great! He’s now 3 months cancer-free!

Thank you to Chewy.com for all they do to share stories of our love for our pets, and for recognizing the great rescue groups that help make families complete. Thank you, Peppertree, for helping us find Ernest, who has filled our home with so much





Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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Heartfelt thanks

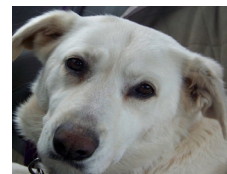
to all who contributed to our annual Holiday Appeal! We love receiving the pictures and notes of Peppertree alumni that often accompany the donations, and we mean it sincerely when we say we couldn't accomplish all we do without your steadfast support.



To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit www.peppertree.org/newsletters.
To correct an address or unsubscribe, please email rescue@peppertree.org with "Peppertree Post correction" in the subject.

Foster Homes Needed

Please . . . consider opening up your heart and home to one of our dogs or puppies for a few days or weeks to give them a chance at a new life.



We have to turn away many animals in need because of a shortage of foster homes.

Most of our dogs are fostered before being placed, so if you own a Peppertree dog, your pet probably benefitted from the kindness of one or multiple foster home volunteers.

Won't you show another dog or pup the same kindness?